

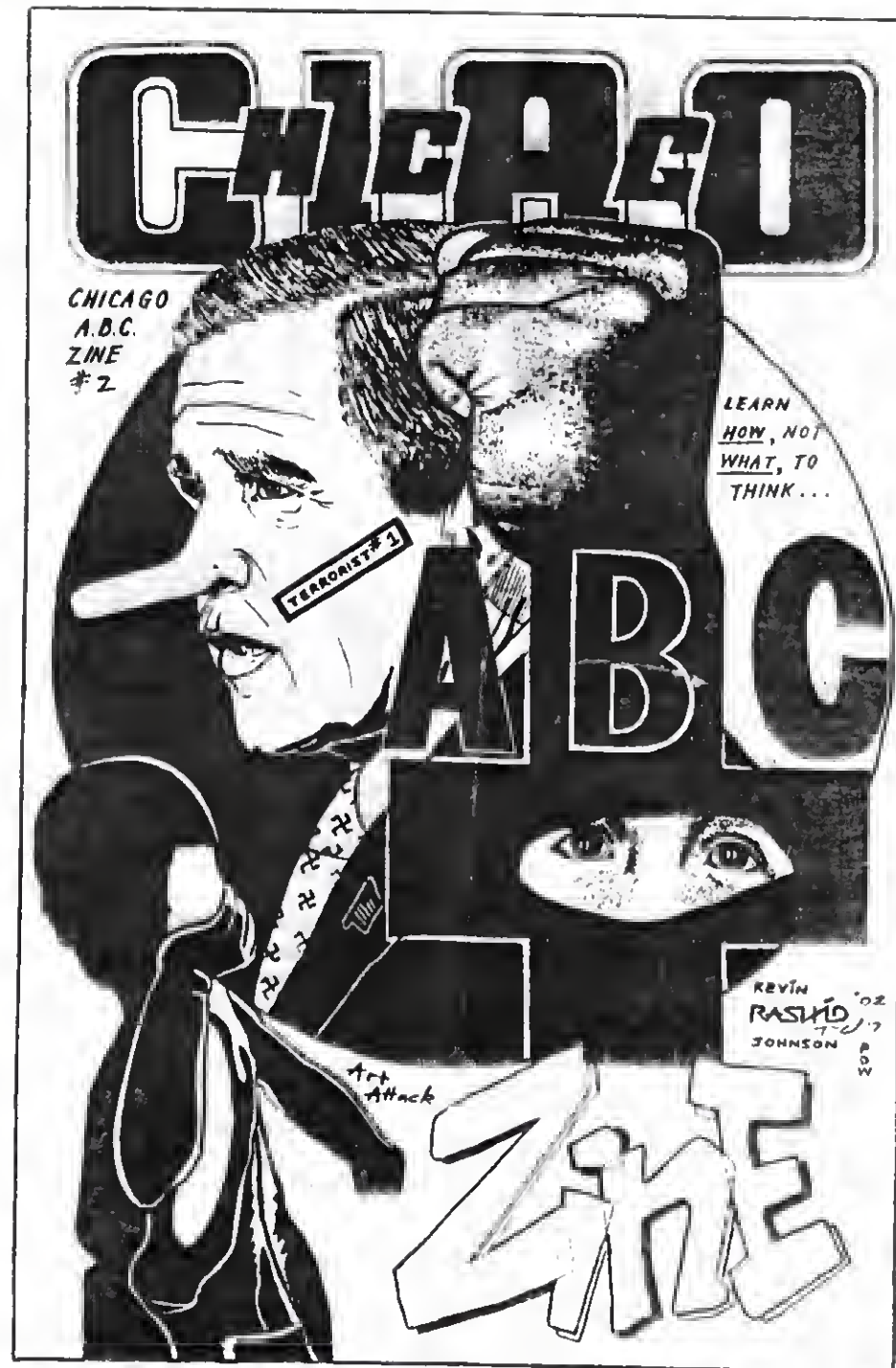


South Chicago ABC Zine Distro
Agitation • Education

Anthony Rayson
Writer Editor
Organizer



P.O. Box 721
Homewood IL
60430



PRISON ABOLITION CONFERENCE
BLACK AUGUST, 2004 CHICAGO

PRISON ABOLITION CONFERENCE

THE REAL CRIMINALS
ARE THE RICH WHO RUN
THE SYSTEM AT OUR EXPENSE

August 13-15, 2004

Friday, August 13th
3 - 5 pm

**SHOUTOUT SUPPORT RALLY
& MARCH AT COOK COUNTY JAIL**
26th & California

6 pm

BUFFET-STYLE MEXICAN DINNER
Decimo Musa, located at 1901 S. Loomis
\$6 per person. Music & discussion.

Saturday, August 14th
8 - 4 pm.

FULL-BLOWN CONFERENCE

Truman College, 1145 W. Wilson (Redline stop)
Speakers will include Pam & Ramona Africa,
Robert King, Fred Hampton, Jr.,
Aaron Patterson, Kathy Kelly and many
local activists, ex-prisoners, family members
and other special guests.

Film room, art gallery, a dozen workshops,
childcare, free food — everything is free!
Many distributors of prison-related
literature, including AK Press.
Chicago-style party afterwards, too!

Sunday, August 15th
10 - 6 pm

CONFERENCE CONTINUES

EU Hall, located at 37 S. Ashland
Workshops, lectures,
panel discussions, tabling, food



Networking!

Everybody will get a chance to
speak and participate! Bring your
friends & family! Learn the TRUTH
from the gulags!

Please visit our website
to get regular updates
on the conference:
<http://www.chicagoabc.org>

Email:
chicagoabc@hotmail.com

To join our listserv discussion
forum, please send an email to:
prison_abolition@yahoogroups.com

Phone:
Anthony Rayson (708) 534-1334

We need your help!
We need volunteers for any number
of projects: space for fundraisers
and visitors, cooks, hosts, media,
banners, posters, email and web,
... etc., etc.

the same punishment, including 120 days in the hole
(disciplinary segregation), with the possibility of
an extra 60 days if the superintendent deems fit,
\$200 fines for EACH of them, 14 days loss of
privileges after the time in the hole, and a chance
of being put in I.M.U.

If you want to make a monetary donation, send a
money order or well-concealed cash to Chantel
Guidry c/o Lawrence ABC P. O. Box 1483 Lawrence, KS
66044.



**"WITHOUT STRUGGLE
THERE IS NO PROGRESS."
FREDERICK DOUGLASS**

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS NETWORK

<http://www.anarchistblackcross.org>

Kentucky ABC
P.O. Box 8302
Lexington, KY 40533

Boston ABC
P.O. Box 258
198 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02116
abo-boston@hush.com / <http://www.baamboston.org/abc.html>

Chicago ABC
P.O. Box 721
Homewood, IL 60430
www.chicagoabc.org
ChicagoABC@hotmail.com

Houston ABC
P.O. Box 667814
Houston, TX 77266-7614
houstonabc2@hotmail.com

Lawrence ABC
P.O. Box 1483
Lawrence, KS 66044
<http://www.kansasanarchist.net/ABC>
abcilawrence@riseup.net

Ann Arbor ABC
PO Box 8287
Ann Arbor, MI 48107
a2abc@riseup.net

Friends of ABCN

Anarchist Prisoner's Legal Aid Network
818 SW 3rd Ave. PMB #354
Portland, OR 97204

Break the Chains
P.O. Box 11331
Eugene, OR 97440
<http://www.breakthechains.net>
breakthechains02@yahoo.com

The main focus of the boycott on May 12th was an attempt to disrupt the economy of the facility by refusing to eat in the dining hall, use the collect-call phones, or purchase items from the canteen. Such acts were to continue until the prisoners gained the desired attention and respect from prison administrators.

The following is a brief list generalizing the most pressing concerns from the prisoners:

- the use of excessive force/physical punishment
- the disrespectful and vindictive behavior of staff and officers
- the lack of adequate medical/mental health care
- the lack of fulfilling work/education opportunities
- the discrimination against racial/religious/cultural/political groups
- the excessive disciplinary fines and sanctions
- the artificially high cost of phone calls and canteen items
- a myriad of other problems that have created an environment hostile to the prisoners' well-being, rehabilitation, and reintegration into the free world

The collective of prisoners at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution stated, "Unless our concerns are given timely and serious consideration, we will continue to engage in further escalation of direct action. We cannot afford to remain silent any longer!"

The prisoners singled out as organizers of the boycott were charged with and convicted of Extortion 1, Unauthorized Organization 1, Disrespect 1, Disobedience of an Order, and Disturbance. All of these prisoners have received

Purpose of the Conference

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Last August in Eugene, Oregon at the Break the Chains Conference, Chicago Anarchist Black Cross agreed to host the next (3rd) such conference. The first occurred in 2002 down in Austin, Texas and from that the ABC Network was created of ABC's that are unaffiliated with ABCF.

Obviously, we want to further the work of ABCN and build on our ties with other serious prisoner support groups around the city, country and the rest of our besieged world. After all, solidarity is one of the main principles of Anarchism! Prison is the epicenter of the oppression, here at home!

Most importantly, we want to give voice to our entombed Brothers & Sisters, their families, friends and other supporters. For, they are the most articulate, insightful and dedicated Freedom Fighters in this demented society! We must learn and draw strength from them and vice versa. It behooves us to be there for them, as they are there for us!

Down with Gulag America!

Chicago ABC Collective

Chicagoabc.org or email us at: chicagoabc@hotmail.com

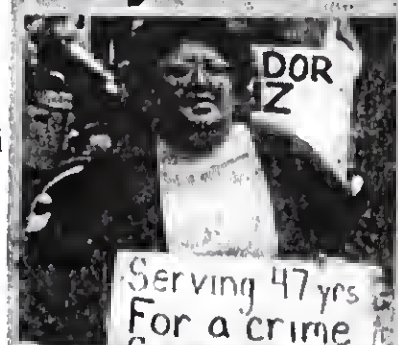


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- Published on August 11th, 2004
- Free to Prisoners
- South Chicago ABC Zine Distro
- POB 721, Homewood, IL 60430
- Edited by Anthony Rayson

May Molina



May Ortiz Molina, a Chicago justice activist with the Comité Exigimos Justicia and founder of Families of the Wrongfully Convicted, died in custody after Chicago police raided her home and held her in lockup.

PRISONER SUPPORT RALLY & MARCH ⁴

COOK COUNTY JAIL
26th & California

FRIDAY the 13th (August)
3 to 5 pm 2004

Help us kick-off this weekend of
Events! National convergence for the
PRISON ABOLITION CONFERENCE

ABU GHRAIB or Cook County?

Show your solidarity with all our
Brothers and Sisters warehoused in
this vile urban concentration camp!



carrying a prisoner who was dying of a heart attack on a stretcher. They were gleefully laughing and joking as the guy's face turned purple. I'm sure that when he expired, they gave the thumbs up like Sabrina Harman.

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I once knew a prisoner for twelve years who was 21 months shy of going home, yet he'd become so despondent due to systematic medical neglect of type 2 diabetes that one day he committed suicide by walking up two flights of stairs in the gym, hanging his cane on the banister, and sliding backwards over it to the concrete handball court below. He likely got the idea from another older gent who, driven desperate by the Texas hate machine, climbed five stories on an outside stairwell near the prison yard and jumped to his death.

One other case pops to mind. It involves a prisoner who was suicidal and had already made previous attempts but was not kept under suicide watch. He suffered from serious depression. After a guard at work verbally abused him, this prisoner went to his cell, took a tin can lid, cut his mattress open, crawled inside it, and fatally sliced himself from pelvis to sternum.

These few incidents don't even scratch the surface. I merely use them to point out the medieval type institutions in the U. S. which produce these psychological states.

For others, it causes bitter anger and hatred of the oppressors and their authoritarian practices. I hear some say that "huntin' will be mighty fun when the rabbit gets the gun." For me personally, I have to struggle every day with a hatred that could cause me to be retributive and authoritarian. I hold out though, for an abolition that allows for redemption, even of the sorriest asshole prison guard.

For a World Without Bosses,

Kevin Glover
#526379
815 12th Street
Huntsville, TX 77348-0001

Prisoners Punished Working for Better Treatment

Pendleton, Oregon - Several prisoners held at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution have been placed in disciplinary segregation after being singled out as organizers or "ringleaders" of a boycott of the chow hall that was to start on May 12, 2004.

The prisoners were convicted of organizing acts of civil disobedience and direct action in protest of inhumane and unconscionable treatment. In an ironic retaliation to these acts, the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution found the prisoners, who wanted a safe and humane environment, a threat and silenced them by segregating them from the general prison population.

As an anarchist-communist, a couple of the best examples I can point out to validate the anarchist argument against hierarchical social structures would include the military and prisons. Both are excellent examples of how power corrupts if we look at the Mi Lais and Atticas throughout history. Both rely on authoritarian, hierarchical chains of command, dominance and submission social dynamics. Both are peopled by often highly brainwashed patriotic types. I work in the prison garage fixing the guards' vehicles, and most of them sport red, white, and blue decals that read "Proud American" or "I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag...and One Nation Under God." Both the military and prisons rely on a demonized and dehumanized other as a focus for abuse, be they Iraqis, prisoners, etc.

I used to call Texas the Gulag State. Now I call it the Abu Ghraib State. One hundred and sixty-five thousand prisoners in this state's penal institutions are held in conditions of privation, forced labor without pay, perpetual aggravation by guards, medical neglect, and a thousand daily petty vindictive hassles by guards of all genders and races.

Allow me to briefly scratch the surface of the matter with a few illustrations of prison conditions which I believe form the dialectic of a growing abolition movement. As I'm sure can be found across the board in U. S. prisons, Texas prisons are run by sadistic, sometimes psychotic, megalomaniacal assholes, who thrive on an unfair power dynamic which allows them to fuck with prisoners. That is with relative impunity. These practices come in many forms such as the anal retentive cage rattling of having basic necessities denied to you by a pig, or the good ole chain yank of being written up on a bogus disciplinary case and having it stick in a prison kangaroo court and losing good time credits or parole eligibility. This practice has recently escalated now that, due to fiscal crises, parole rates are up and prison guards see their future job security threatened. There's also the good ole practice of beating down a prisoner and then charging him with assault on a peace officer. This can result in a twenty year aggregate sentence being stacked on top of the prisoner's present sentence.

Texas prison guards are well aware of the fact that to even slap one of them can cause a prisoner to stay another decade in prison. So, they constantly play it up to the hilt, being just as provocative as is humanly possible towards prisoners. Every day prisoners have to swallow their pride and walk away from the provocations of these cowardly, despicable fascists. Some don't walk away. They get fed up and give in to their rage. They need our support.

Bush's claim that the prison abuse at Abu Ghraib doesn't reflect American values is bullshit. The prison abusers and warders of Abu Ghraib were exports to Iraq from this country. Same mindset, same modus operandi. I would remind you of the prisoners down here in Brazoria County, Texas caught on film as guards made them crawl on their bellies while they loosened German shepherd dogs on them.

It's now come to light that even our Commander-in-Thief, while he was governor of Texas, refused to even read the appeals for clemency of condemned death row prisoners. This paragon of American justice and family values refused to even read the cases with clear-cut mitigating circumstances for strong possibilities of innocence. I remember well, as a cook in the kitchen during the Bush gubernatorial years, the many depressing days as last meals were being prepared for the condemned. As Bush ushered in the first year, Texas executed some 30+ prisoners, a trend that continues today.

Prisoner abuse is neither gender nor race specific. The Sabrina Harmons and Lynndie England are universal types in these places. I've seen Texas prison guards perfunctorily

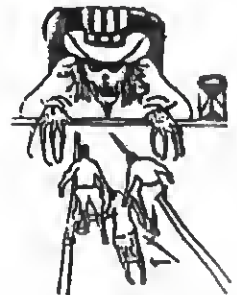
"LET OUR PEOPLE GO!"

Don't be intimidated by this post
9-11 Police State in the making!
Hear prison abolitionists and
other activists speak about:

1. Overcrowding at Cook County
2. The racist drug laws
3. The elimination of parole and the rounding up of "violators"
4. Prison slave labor
5. The 2 million prisoners & the plans for millions more!
6. Exploding numbers of women prisoners and their children
7. Punishment Industry profits and who are the *real* criminals
8. Suppression & censorship of activists in & out of prison
9. Medical neglect & deprivation
10. Supermax torture chambers



STOP The ROUNDUPS!



Prison Abolition Conference

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A three day prison conference will take place in Chicago from Friday, August 13th through Sunday the 15th. There are many reasons we are doing all of this. It is the third such anarchist organized prison abolition conference and ABC (Anarchist Black Cross) organizing gathering. But, more importantly, we are working with community groups of prisoner supporters, family members and serious veterans of the struggle. We want to help educate and empower each other, draw new people into the movement and raise some serious issues. It's so important time and place to tell the truth!

We are planning on bringing such notables as Pam and Ramona Africa, Tom Big Warrior and Robert King, among others. Throughout Chicagoland and the Midwest are several support groups that are interested in doing presentations about various subjects. These include workshops about women prisoners; Books to Prisoners Programs; transgendered, gay and lesbian prisoners; Native American prisoners; New Afrikan prisoners; Hispanic prisoners; drug war prisoners; innocent prisoners; the fight to abolish death row; and local political prisoners such as Kathy Kelly of Voices in the Wilderness, Khalfani Malik Khaldun, Zolo Agona Azania, among others. The connection between the war in Iraq and the war at home will be dissected. AIDS, rape, hepatitis C, torture, neglect, abuse and cruelty in many respects, will be delved into. Many local activist and support groups will be given an opportunity to explain their work. Family members of prisoners will have a strong voice. It's an educational and networking opportunity that we are making a point to be inclusive about. After all, our work is about the people and the families being menaced by the state - poor and "non-white" mainly. The strength of anarchism is in organic community work. This is the third such anarchist-organized prison abolition conference whose purpose also includes specific collaboration and discussions with ABC Network chapters (and sister groups) to strengthen our network and increase our effectiveness. We want to help spawn new ABC chapters and increase the levels of support for the prisoners we work with.

Anarchist Black Cross 3rd Annual Prison Abolition Conference

I hope that you take what you've learned during this gathering to your respective communities and take action. We are currently living in a post 9-11 era and we must create ourselves a force of security to protect our rights. If we fail to do so, we may be the next victims of the Amerikan Patriot Act. Under the guise of this war on terrorism, we the innocents of this society are becoming victims and what we once called our privacy is violated every day.

I would appreciate it if some of you would share your stories with me once you return home. I can be reached by mailing a letter to me at the address below. You may also pick up yourselves a copy of the *Epidemic of Innocence* from Anthony Rayson.

May God bless and keep you all, as we move into a new era of struggle.

Remember Black August and comrade George Jackson.

Power to the People!

Bro. Khalfani M. Khaldun
#874304
(Leonard McQuay) (A-207) (SHU)
P. O. Box 1111
Carlisle, Indiana 47838

Howdy Friends, Comrades, Fellow Proletarians,

I'm writing to you from the Texas concentration camp's infamous Walls Unit. This is the local where so many people are put to death that it hardly makes the news anymore. People are put to death by the State for crimes not much different than the ones it is now committing in Iraq.

Malcolm X spoke about the chickens coming home to roost. I see the Texas prison and all prison systems, for that matter, as incubators of those proverbial chickens. Included in this group are the men and women sentenced in the master class' courts and made bitter from years of abuse in the hate machines called prisons. It also includes family members and friends of these human beings, as well as communities that have seen through the law and order bullshit mystification and the ruling class war that imprisonment really is. The more working people are subjected to these brutalities, the more that consciousness will spread against the concept and use of imprisonment. Marx said capitalism produces its own grave diggers. I believe the Prison Industrial Complex will produce its own abolitionists. I also believe that the prison abolition movement will be linked to many other social movements towards creating a sane and just planet.

This is perhaps an eye-opening and historical time where people are beginning, on a massive scale, to question the motives of politicians like Bush, for warfare and their electoral practices ala Florida. Many are beginning to question the concept of warfare period, or if there is any such thing as a "just war."

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Political Message to Chicago (Voice of Political Prisoner Khalfani Khaldun)

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Revolutionary greetings to all attendees to this conference on the abolition of prisons.

Comrades, supporter, liberators: I am absolutely sorry that I couldn't be there in Chicago in solidarity with you all. I write to you, however, from my prison cell inside the security housing unit housed inside Indiana. I would like to use this time to draw a connection with the history of struggle in Chicago and the significance of this conference.

Chicago has its deep roots in being deeply committed to a people in search of freedom. Courageous self-determined men/woman sacrificed their lives, homes, and jobs for the sake of educating and protecting themselves. A lot of beautiful people lost their lives so that we may one day wake up and forge political alliances for the challenge to colonial oppression wherever we may be in the world. This is why this conference is what we need to re-instill the morality, the self-determination, and direction of the oppressed whites, new alrikans, hispanics, and native people in this society.

We must know and not forget the atrocities carried out by the racist pig John Burge who was responsible for many of my brothers being framed, given life sentence, or sent to death row. Many of these brothers may be among you today to show their support against injustice. I ask you to take a moment to remember the Black Panther Party, those alive and those who are no longer with us. They remain the real example of real valor and they represented the community.

As one revolutionary community you must also acknowledge that we are (all) an extended family. Each and every one of you attending this historical conference must take full advantage of this time together.

The time for rebuilding is now. We are dying every day in these prison plantations. We need a massive Midwest movement to help us reorganize our struggles for real freedom. So many other states remain at the top of the food chain when it concerns support groups. It is my profoundest hope that someone among you will help us out here in the state of Indiana. We need your help.

Again, I say that I wish I could be there today with you. But this is impossible. So I take a moment to extend a clinched fist salutation to Pam Afrika and Ramona; Robert King; comrade/brother Fred Hampton, Jr.; Arron Patterson; Kathy Kelly, and anyone else.

ABC's 3rd Annual Prison Abolition Conference Chicago, Illinois

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Schedule of Events



FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2004

3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Rally & March COOK COUNTY JAIL.
Shoutout & Support, 26th and California

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Dinner, Discussion, Films at
Decima Musa, 1901 S. Loomis. \$10.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2004

8:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Conference

Truman College, 1145 W. Wilson (Red Line at Wilson)

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m. Opening by Anthony Rayson &
recorded statement from Tom Big Warrior, Lenape Nation

9:20 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. Speakers: Kathy Kelly, Voices
in the Wilderness; Gale Ahrens, ABC Chicago; Pam Africa
& Romana Africa, MOVE; Robert King Wilkerson, Angola 3.

10:50 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. Workshops:

A. Prisoners' Speak! Addresses from Presently

Incarcerated Conscious Prisoners, Anthony Rayson
facilitates

B. Palestinian Support - Eric Peters & Students for
Social Justice

C. Bertha Escamilla - Families of the Wrongfully Convicted

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D. Campaign to End the Death Penalty, with Alice Kim
12 noon. - 1 p.m. MOVE Film with Narration by Pam &
Ramona Africa

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Workshops

A. Campaign in Support of "C" # Prisoners - Hondo,
David Saxner, Archietta, possible speaker hookup w/
Marlon Shannon from Stateville

B. We Demand Justice, April Ortiz Comite Eximos
Justicia

C. Abu Ghraib & the War in Iraq & the War in the
Streets & Prisons of the U.S., Peter Hudis of News &
letters

D. CLAIM - Chicago Legal Aid to Women Prisoners, JoAnne
Archibald

E. Tactics to Prison Abolition -- Gale Ahrens & Anthony
Rayson

2:20 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. Panel Discussions, Film

Enough is Enough with Joan Parkin, Mildred Henry, Robin
& Madison Hobley

Film "End of the Nightstick" about Jon Burge & his
torturers

General Panel Discussion with Lorenzo Komboa Ervin,
Fred Hampton, Jr.

Aaron Patterson, (all political prisoners) & community
organizer, Eraina Dunn

Other workshops, readings, testimony, performances,
etc. on an ongoing basis. We will also have an open
mike. Films will be shown and will include an interview
with Anarchist Political Prisoner, Ojore Iutalo, a film
about the case of Jeff "Free" Luers, a hilarious look
at Donald Rumsfeld and other treats. A prisoner art
gallery will display many stunning works of prisoners,
curated by Sarah Jean Drago. T-shirts for sale w/
prisoner artwork.

Free food will be served on an ongoing basis. Many
groups will be tabling terrific literature, with a
heavy emphasis on prisoner issues.

(which were put down brutally) prompted by economic turmoil and
insecurity suffered on account of catastrophic Russian losses in WWI,
which came only a decade after a humiliating military defeat at the
hands of Japan. 33

In the wake of the fiasco in Vietnam, the U.S. refrained from direct
protracted military interventions and occupations for over two decades,
electing to engage instead in secret proxy wars and indirect disruptions of
unwanted foreign governments through arming and mobilizing those
countries' militias to overthrow such governments and covert activities.
This was to avoid again creating large national debts and body counts.
So, clearly the U.S. elite fears its population's revolutionary potential and
has flipped around sporking that potential to life. Indeed, the bombing of
marine barracks in Lebanon led U.S. forces to promptly abandon its brief
role in the U.S. / Israel occupation of Beirut in 1983. Similarly, when the U.S.
occupied Somalia in 1995, under the pretense of "peacekeeping," and
soldiers began killing civilians, which prompted an angry mob to kill
several U.S. soldiers, the U.S. promptly disengaged in 1995.

-- End of Part One --

Kevin (Rashid) Johnson no. 185492
Red Onion State Prison
P.O. Box 1900
Pound, VA 24279



CONFERENCIA PARA LA
ABOLICION
DE LAS CARCELES

ingenious and fierce struggle, the U.S. was unable to assert its prestige over the natives - what the U.S. calls "winning the hearts and minds of the people."

³² Likewise, when all else failed to defeat the successful 1978 popular revolution in Nicaragua (a direct challenge to U.S. prestige because occurring within its claimed region of control,) the U.S. contra war and invasion targeted Nicaragua's economic infrastructure. As Time magazine admitted (in an article frequently quoted by Chomsky,) the U.S. military objective was to "wreck the economy and prosecute a long and deadly proxy war until the exhausted natives overthrow the unwanted government themselves" leaving them "with wrecked bridges, sabotaged power stations and ruined farms." U.S. official military policy had the contra forces and air strikes specifically targeting farms, oil depots, health clinics, and other (soft) economic targets, while the Reagan administration blocked loans to Nicaragua from the Inter-American Development Bank and World Bank and then imposed a full embargo in 1985, and then blamed Sandinista government policies for the ensuing economic turmoil.

It occurs so common as to need no elaboration that western powers' main method of undermining power in those societies whose rulers offend them, is by imposing blockades, sanctions, embargoes and high tariffs on trade calculated to cripple their economies and force them to submit to Western control - the U.S. policy on Cuba being a primary example. Furthermore, in addition to barring all international trade with Cuba, the U.S. went further to cripple its tourist industry by carrying out bombings of Cuban tourist sites and hotels.

Those various examples of the targeting of the economies of societies as the primary source of neutralizing or destroying their holds on power, makes quite clear that a society's economy is the base of power of those who rule or aspire to rule them.

Obviously, if the vulnerability of a ruling class lies in its holds over economic power, then we have an explanation as to why modern industrial powers do not treat the broad masses of their own populations as brutally as they do foreign populations. The domestic population has direct access to the imperial country's economic infrastructure and can therefore disrupt and destroy the power base, themselves. This power of the domestic masses is what compelled the U.S. power structure to abandon the Vietnam War adventure. The broader sectors of U.S. society were feeling directly the despair and insecurity resulting from their forced involvement in that protracted war as cannon fodder, against a people a half a world away, who had done nothing to them. With the contraction of the U.S. economy caused by the costs of that war, Americans were also feeling the pinch in their pocketbooks. Consequently, the American public was becoming more and more radicalized in their displeasure with and challenges to the owners of U.S. power.

With heavy defeats being whipped on U.S. military forces by the poor, unsophisticated and relatively tiny Vietnamese people, U.S. prestige was quickly waning at home and abroad. The U.S. elite began to fear - with good reason - the onset of a social revolution similar to what occurred in 1917 in Tsarist Russia. The Russian Revolution was similarly sparked by growing social disaffection with Russian rulers and mass demonstrations

We must be completely out of Truman College no later than 4 pm sharp, so we are looking to keep to our timetable. Donations gladly accepted!

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Dinner & Show

People's Church of Chicago, 941 W. Lawrence Ave (Red Line at Lawrence)

5 p.m. - 11 p.m. the Peoples' Church of Chicago,

Bbenefit to help pay for the conference, so a nominal \$5 admission requested, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. It is an all-ages show. Vegan dinner. Beer is \$1 donation Soft drinks are .50 donation.

Flyers announcing the bands will be forthcoming.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2004

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

UE Union Hall (Electrical Worker's Union), 37 S. Ashland Avenue.

Conference

9:30 am - 10:30 Set-up, breakfast and socializing

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. - Importance of Prison Abolition in Revolutionary Thought Anthony Rayson & Gale Ahrens

12:00 noon - 1:00 MOVE Film

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Workshops

A. Prisoner Art with Tsehay Hebert, UIC professor

B. Community Organizing, Applying Anarchism Lorenzo Komboa Ervin,

2:45 - 4:15 Workshops

A. Books to Prisoners, with Midwest Books to Prisoners, Books to Women Prisoners, the Books 4 Prisoner's Crew, Portland Books to Prisoners

B. A Panel Discussion by young women about their experiences in juvenile lock-up

4:15 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. - Closing General Discussion with a special emphasis on building stronger (and more!) Anarchist Black Cross Chapters

Ongoing Presentations: Film Room, Prisoner Art Gallery, Improvised Discussions, Performances, Tabling, Announcements & Readings. Sat & Sun

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Other Tentative Workshops

Transgendered / Gay / Lesbian Prisoners - Jennie Mutation & Liberte

COINTELPRO - Infiltration - Patriot Act - Political Repression

Inside Resistance - MPU - Hunger Strikes, etc.

Arrest / Interrogation / Court / Support Programs for ex-prisoners

Prisons as Concentration Camps & Genocide; Class War

The Prison Industrial Complex; Facilities of the Month

Kill Them with Irony; e.g. Turn Yourself In Day

Implications of Medical Workers Involved with DOC

Global Resistance to Prisons

Sponsors

Chicago ABC (Anarchist Black Cross) & ABC - Network, News & Letters,

MOVE, Friends of MOVE, Committee to Free Mumia Abu Jamal, The Angola 3

Support Network, The Red Heart Warrior Society, Students for Social Justice,

Chicago Black Panthers, Chicagoland Anarchist Network, Autonomous Zone,

Midwest Books to Prisoners, Some Chicago Anarchists, South Metro Greens,

Refuse & Resist, Chicago Direct Action Network, The TAMMS Committee, Fresh

Start Transitional Housing, National Jericho Movement, "C" # Prisoner

Supporters, Unbound Books, Committee to End the Marion Lockdown, Chicago

and order to protect the holdings of one group from being equally shared within the society. This will be that process of the "withering away of the state" That Marx envisioned.

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To illustrate the centrality of economic arrangements in the survival of societies and in maintaining the holds on power for those who rule them, we can look to history. In order to enforce relocations and genocide against the Native Americans (essentially to destroy their societies) in pursuit of driving them from the territory that the U.S. aspired to acquire, the U.S. army and its hirelings targeted and decimated the staple of these nomadic peoples' economic systems, viz. their crops and the buffalo. In order to effect the spread of capitalism and European colonial domination in Asia, Africa and Latin America from the 1500's to present, the Europeans had to destroy the native feudal handicraft and tribal economies and replace them with capitalist modes of production, also using prestige (mind control) as a principal weapon of conditioning the natives to consent to European control and domination. This prestige took the form of the constructs of white racism and redemption that survives and is still used to this very day.

The natives were taught the notion of superiority of European culture, identity and religion; that in order to be rescued from their own backwardness, heathenism, ignorance and savagery, they needed to be tutored in the methods of white civilization. Never minding that before the 17th century (that point when capitalism began effectively destroying and replacing the native economies,) the living standards in Africa, Asia and Latin America were at least as high and higher than that in Europe. Today's terminology used by the west to reassert its prestige and economic domination over the old 3rd world colonial territories is "spreading democracy," the same old concept of tutoring natives into the values of western civilization.

The defeat of Germany and Japan during WWII was accomplished by crippling the industrial centers of their economies. This was done through naval blockades and aerial bombardments of their cities, and ultimately dropping nuclear bombs on two of Japan's major industrial production and distribution centers - the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nuclear warheads are weapons the very functions of which are to attack and instantly cripple cities (the economic nerve centers of industrial societies,) and thus destroying an industrial society's will and ability to fight. (The old "scorched earth" tactics of destroying economic resources and thus starving a society &/or its military into submission.) This is why nukes are termed "strategic" and "first strike weapons," and are perceived as the most powerful weapons in the arsenals of modern nations. Why again, because they can cripple an industrial country's economy (and power base) almost instantly.

During the Vietnam War, the U.S. devised to defeat the Vietnamese anti-colonial struggle in both North and South Vietnam by destroying the bases of their economies. In industrialized North Vietnam, the U.S. precisely targeted transportation and industrial sites, dams, cities and other economic infrastructure, in the agrarian-based South, they indiscriminately bombed the widely dispersed villages and crops. The U.S. however, was still unable to defeat the Vietnamese. The U.S.'s brutal oppression only reinforced their will to resist and in the face of their

In having addressed the function that prestige plays in power, we can then examine to what extent today's leftist activities either serve or undermine the prestige of elite power. Actually those limited efforts of those leftist groups which I mentioned at the beginning, serve to reinforce the prestige of capitalist power. The educators' failure and fear to organize the masses toward genuine resistance leaves the right to wield power by default, free of all challenge, while the repeated decisive losses which the disorganized youth (and often enraged urban Blacks) suffer in their positional clashes with the establishments' gains only reinforces the perception of empire's invulnerability. Prestige thus remains free of any real challenge, and the struggle for popular rule remains in a state of paralysis. That is, until we begin to undermine the prestige of power.

Once decisive attacks are made upon the prestige of power where then do we find the actual "bases of power." Against which our forces of resistance must be concentrated? The answer can be found in the remaining two elements, which Confucius recognized as necessary for a ruler to secure holds on power. Confucius observed that military power was not decisive, but next to prestige (i.e. preserving the confidence of the people in their rulers,) was the rulers' control over the food, i.e., the society's economic resources. Thus in order to undermine power at its seat, resistance must be directed at the base of social power, which it supplies and provides for the very survival of the society at large and its political and military forces. Hence, whoever controls the economy controls the society; as all societies are organized around their economic systems, just as the common wage-worker's life is organized around her job and the acquisition of her wages. Her free time, family time, ability to travel, and entire standard of living and quality of life is determined and controlled by, and organized around, her job. With her entire life regulated by her access to the wage, the capitalist boss becomes her master.

Consistent with Confucius's observation and as demonstrated in the earlier analysis of stratified societies, the power of ruling classes comes from their ability to control the common people's access to survival resources. So long as the people are helpless to feed themselves, they are dependent on those who regulate and control their access to basic necessities. Therefore, in order to defeat their power, elite control over the economy must be broken, and the economic arrangement itself revolutionized to take control out of the hands of the privileged minority and turn that control over to the working masses themselves. And herein lies the solution to another problem, viz, the possible recurrence of elite prestige. When the common people come to control their own survival resources and trash the old economic arrangement, they will thereby gain confidence in their own collective power of self rule, without need of edicts from above. They will vest prestige in themselves, and, as with the societies of headmen, no individuals will be able to exert monopoly power over the society, because everyone will have a shared confidence and sense of responsibility in the society as a whole. The natural order will be "from each according to his ability, to each according to need." Mutual aid and generosity will then be the basis for admiration and respect, and there will be no more need of a military-police apparatus to secure law

Legal Aid to Incarcerated Women, Voices in the Wilderness, New World

11

Resource Center, Comite Eximos Justicia, Midwest Unrest / Generation Y,

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• On August 7, 1970 Jonathan, George's younger brother, led an armed raid on the courthouse in Morin County, California, where he armed and attempted to liberate several Black prisoners. This action was calculated to undermine the symbolic cloak of prestige and invulnerability that surrounds the political and military institutions and thus renders the oppressed classes passive in the face of their oppression.

As another example (if over-generalized) illustration on how prestige works, let's take the example of the ubiquitous schoolyard bully. By instilling fear in his victims through selective acts of intimidating violence, the bully inculcates in his victim class the idea of his invulnerability.

Prestige. So long as his victims look at him in awe they will not resist him, even though they may greatly outnumber him. However, let even one of his victims grow tired of his terror and successfully attack and defeat him. His prestige, his image of invulnerability to attack from his victims, is instantly shaken to the core. He immediately loses face, a loss which

inspires in his other victims a glimmer of hope in resistance. The brute must then either resort to raw terror to regain his credibility and reclaim the fear and submission of victims (an act which, carried out indiscriminately, will likely provoke hatred and contempt in his victims and thus spur their drive for further resistance,) or he must relent his holds on power over them.

In order to avoid enraging his entire victim class, the bully's terror must be concentrated against the one who first cost him his prestige. He must make a public example to all who would dare resist him. But if their resistance becomes broad enough before he can check it, the bully will be unable to use violence judiciously, but must attack large sectors of his victim class in support of his own survival, driving more and more of his victims to anger and desperation. This raw terror will provoke an increasing cycle of resistance which, if properly guided, will spiral out of the bully's ability to contain and ultimately lead to his defeat.

This in the real world of oppressor and oppressed is how prestige works and is the key to its destruction and the defeat of the oppressor. But until prestige is destroyed, no matter how conscious the victims are made of their conditions of oppression (however much they may be 'educated' about the corrupt nature of their ruler,) the victims as a whole will not resist their oppressor. While those disillusioned few who defy the odds and dare to resist must be isolated from the overall victim class and suppressed torridly and relentlessly. The victims are free to criticize their oppressor so long as they fear and respect him. The wiser oppressor will devise to control his victims by turning segments of his victim class against other segments by showing one segment a degree of favored treatment or delegated power (giving them a lesser degree of prestige) an artificial privileged status which is totally dependent upon their keeping the bully in power and keeping their 'interiors' in line. Therefore, in order to forge a united resistance within such a stratified victim class, the privileged status of the favored sectors must be undermined by actions which will bring down the bully's raw violence on the heads of the entire victim class. As Sun Tzu observed, even avowed enemies tossed about in a boat on a stormy sea, will cooperate "just as the right hand does with the left."

He must always maintain an appearance of good and he must aspire towards achieving great accomplishments in matters of state and industry. It is through these methods that the ruler acquires prestige and fame and the submissions of his subjects.

In fact, I can give a succinct example of prestige at work taken from right here in these prisons. In here the pigs are vastly outnumbered by the prisoners – yet our resistance to their power is relatively non-existent. The pigs' ability to rule and keep order is based solely upon fear, upon the majority of cons to accept the uniforms' power as legitimate, unquestionable, unchallengeable and therefore invulnerable. They actually hold the pig and the social order that empowers him, in awe. But by my own actions, it's been proven to my satisfaction that pig power is not so formidable, which is why I've spent the last ten years of my confinement in solitary, housed away in specially modified cells, often kept totally isolated from all other prisoners. I've taught them that violence, brutal oppression, and terror tactics is a two-way street with me. In responses to their abuses of me and my peers, I've frequently holed their bodies, tarched and scorched their flesh, broken their bones, single-handedly repelled their K-9's and done battle with their goon squads more times than I can recount. Of course I've endured every brutality which their tiny minds could devise. Yet their efforts have never deterred me. Consequently, they've offered or made every concession short of allowing me to walk free out of the prison gates. But my abilities are limited by my conditions which make it impossible for me to reach the principle enemies at their seats of power. Irregardless, I'm convinced that the prestige of power is nothing but so much hype.

Indeed, George Jackson recognized that prestige in and of itself exists nowhere except in peoples' minds. "Prestige is an abstract, an intangible. It has no material basis, no substantial objective reality. One can't taste it, see it or smell it, it can't be heard. So how does it exist? Subjectively, in the mind's eye, after the fact of some connected circumstances that may also have been subjective." In a taped speech given by him shortly before his death in 1971, he further elaborated on prestige as follows: "The prestige of power at its maturity is a thing that will prevent people from acting against that power. This pig is a psychological thing, a state of being wherein the bourgeoisie reign of terror need not rely on violence to sustain itself. It's relying on something that happened in the past... where it secured itself. And it's drifting at this point, the prestige of power means that it is drifting at this point and resting on its laurels. At this stage people are just not inclined to attack that power. So, consequently, our first attack is on the prestige of power. That was Jonathan's job, to destroy the prestige of power, the iconoclastic act of crushing symbols.* Once these symbols are crushed, and people see that they are vulnerable, then we can move on to the actual destruction of these bases of power. Because power, after the destruction of its prestige, will be forced to revert back to its original force, raw brute force – violence." It will be this onset of raw violence, when stripped of its prestige, which breeds in its victims the will to resist out of anger, despair, frustration, and the will to survive. And it is this resistance which, as George observed, must be channeled toward the "destruction of the bases of power."

First, I want to dedicate this conference to the life, spirit and loving work of May Malina Ortiz, whose life was snuffed out, while in police custody a few weeks ago. Her memory will linger in our hearts forever! I also want to thank everyone here today for coming. You could have gone to the Bud Billikin Day Parade, where 1,000,000 people are marching through Chicago's south side. It's the largest parade in the country!

Same as you have traveled from far away, such as Houston, Texas, Portland, Oregon, Lawrence, Kansas, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Boston, Massachusetts, New Orleans, Louisiana – all over the country! Same have spent months, years and even decades in the horrible prisons of America, or have loved ones penned up, as I speak. Same have last loved ones in prison, or on the streets, either killed by police or caught up in social violence, which this extreme capitalist and virulently racist, sexist society, breeds as if in a Petri dish. There are a lot of killers loose in America today, most all of them trained and employed by the government.

For the obscene wealth of the chosen few relies on the unjust laws that only apply to the poor, heavily weighted as to race. Couple this with the colossal lie that oppression equals "freedom" and you have a seriously demented, immoral society. It is organized crime gone wild, unchecked and beyond prosecution.

In place of genuine, mutually supportive community, free will, environmental sustainability, unmailed autonomy and so forth, we have a cowed country of order takers, relentlessly badgered by fascist cheerleaders. We're supposed to be satisfied with a bought and sold escapist culture and Big Brother samnambulization, where the warth of our lives is measured in the level of the accumulation of plastic products, we don't even need. For this mockery of real social life, a monstrous edifice of oppression functions.

With 4.5% of the world's population, the U.S. usurps 30% of the world's resources! Yet here at home, tens of millions live in squalor, destitution, despair, anguish, hopelessness, homelessness and imprisonment. Hundreds of millions of people throughout the world suffer on the brink of starvation in sprawling shantytowns, refugee camps &/or under the heel of death-squad type dictatorships, mostly trained, armed and

ordered about from Washington. Chicago's own Kathy Kelly, who is our next speaker, just recently got out of prison, for the "crime" of stepping on the sacred ground at Fort Benning, Georgia, where the "School of Assassins" is based. 14

The United States has a nuclear gun to the head of every man, woman, child, plant and animal on Earth. The U.S. military has already demonstrated countless times, that mass incineration of tens of thousands of people at a time or the forced starvation of hundreds of thousands of children are merely options they can, have and will use in response to any presumed threat. They are truly pitiless and genocidal.

I think there are two basic assumptions you can either accept, reject or attempt to ignore. One is that genocide and massive imprisonment are acceptable in support of the American empire or they are not. The other is that the lives of so-called "white people" are more important than those of people of color and that to maintain this abomination of "white skin privilege" all forms of institutional crime are acceptable, either actually fought for, as a member of the military, police or imprisonment regiments, or acquiesced to. Or, if you don't have much protective melanin in your skin and pass as "white" you can become a "race traitor" and become a legitimate member of the human family.

Of course, to be a moral, self-respecting humanist individual, these cannot be agreed to, which can only lead to an abolitionist, revolutionary perspective and conduct. Reform may lead to an isolated lessening of suffering and that's important. But as a philosophy, it is a surrendering to the criminality of Empire.

Of course, everybody here pretty much knows all of this. But, many many do not, so relentless and pervasive is the Orwellian brainwashing, here in Amerikkka. This is backed up by the quite legitimate fear of reprisals. Look at the set-up of Aaron Patterson, just last week, two days after a judge ordered Jon Burge from his vacation nest in Florida to begin to answer for his torturing of suspects. At least Aaron is still alive, unlike May Molina Ortiz!

But overcome our fear we must. It's high time to reclaim our birthright and dignity, which is that of a highly intelligent and adaptive, caring, mutually supportive and spiritual social animal. Social harmony cannot be coerced!

So, why are we here? We're here to bring out the brutal truth concerning all aspects of America's most sickening secret here at home – the vast punishment industry. Slavery never



In recognizing the role of prestige in society we've identified that totally subjective phenomenon which allows people to submit to oppression and exploitation. In his political writings, Niccolò Machiavelli examines overall whether a ruler should base his command on the basis of love or fear. He too recognized the centrality of prestige in controlling masses of people. He concluded that if there must be a choice between love and fear, fear is preferable so long as it is that quality of fear which prompts respect and not contempt or hatred. To avoid provoking hatred, the ruler must avoid violating the person, possessions and honor of his subjects unreasonably.

the military and political institutions operating to enforce the social order and mold public opinion in support of the system.

26

In the state-level society, power and prestige are determined by who can most securely hoard the largest portion of social wealth (wealth produced by the labor of the common people) as opposed to the respect to which the headman acquired based upon his generosity and fairness in distributing the social wealth. All state-level societies are based upon distinct inequalities between ruler and ruled, and rich and poor, thus the necessity of sophisticated military-police systems to maintain law and order. Through threat of physical coercion, the police and military are the ultimate force that keeps the exploited and poor in line. But because raw force prompts rebellion (oppression breeds resistance) states have found it more expedient and efficient to control the masses by controlling their thoughts and diverting their attention away from the reality of their oppression, which is done in a variety of ways, including generating perpetual fear of internal and outside enemies (real and created) supporting entertainment and information media which glamorizes the wealthy and ruling class prestige and military might, promoting values of conformity and loyalty to rulers (patriotism) political rallies, universal education, all manner of diversionary entertainment and hedonistic outlets, and keeping the common people forever busy with work in a perpetual struggle to survive: as Aristotle observed "it is in the interests of a tyrant to make his subjects poor, so that... the people are so occupied with their daily tasks that they have no time for plotting."

So it can be said in general that societies, whether egalitarian or stratified, are organized or ruled by those who acquire respect or prestige in the eyes of the masses, who control the access of the people to basic needs, and who have control over the military power. This political, economic and military power can either be vested in the masses themselves, a small group of individuals or one individual.

Confucius keenly recognized the role of these three principles in organizing societies. When asked what conditions are necessary for one to rule securely over masses of people, he replied: 1) a sufficiency of military power, 2) a sufficiency of food, and 3) the faith of the people in the ruler. Asked further what should be omitted if only two of these were possible, he replied, "omit the military power." He then answered that if it were possible to keep only one "let them lose their food and keep their faith in you." Confucius understood that without some level of willing submission to power, no people could be ruled or enslaved, but with faith in their rulers' power, their commitment is unshakable. Whether based on admiration or fear this "faith" (prestige) is indispensable to power.

As George Jackson observed, "Prestige bars any serious attack on power. Do people attack a thing they consider with awe, with a sense of its own legitimacy?" The answer of course, is "no" which is a primary reason why the controllers of modern empire incessantly glamorize their apulence and the sophistication and prowess of their military-police bodyguard through their mass-oriented information and entertainment media, teaching the people to hold elites in awe and fear. They are thereby able to preserve law and order through controlling the minds of the masses without the need to resort to raw, brutal force.

ended! Check the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution! 15
Prisoners are legally considered slaves. Lawsuits brought forth by prisoners challenging their enslavement by the prisons, have been dismissed by the U.S. Supreme Court, citing this clause of the Constitution. It's the ultimate in cynicism and hypocrisy to claim this as a beacon of rights and freedom, when in fact, it has always been a slaver's document!

The economy is also slave-based and always has been in America! Corporations are fascist organizations, which the political and legal institutions cater to. Tens of millions toil in slave-like working conditions and millions more are locked out of even that, ripe as raw material for the prison slave system.

Amazingly, Martha Stewart got five months. Every now and then, they go after one of their own, for the wrist slap treatment, although the Tyca guy was just acquitted. Enron can devastate the futures of tens of thousands of workers without any real consequences. Meanwhile, a black kid on the corner with a little crack rock in his pocket, will almost automatically receive a ten year sentence, without so much as a blink of the eye from a judge. This type of "justice" happens tens of thousands of times every day in the assembly lines of injustice - the courts.

Murder, kidnapping, torture, extortion, rape - these are serious crimes! They're also the definition of what America does to people, here and abroad. The real crimes and the real criminals, whether perpetrated by the policies of government or industry are never even thought of as up for consideration as criminal behavior!

So, you have a situation where America sent 57,000 Americans to their deaths in Vietnam, killed 3 million plus, and ruined a whole sub-continent. Yet, one of the arch-criminal masterminds of this decades-long genocide, Henry Kissinger, can blithely state: "We should have never been there, but that's 'history!'" During the mid-late seventies, most of the prisoners in the states were Vietnam veterans! "Welcome home" from the government that put you through this hell!

Meanwhile, several hundred thousand young people today, are having the best years of their lives nightmarishly destroyed by being held captive by the state in one of their hideous gulags for the "crime" of the possession of a medicinal plant that grows wild! This may very well be utterly insane, but it is the reality that we are forced to deal with.

Tens of thousands of others are innocent of the charges they

were convicted on, sentenced by nebulous "conspiracy" laws, convicted of "crimes" without victims, or guilty of criminal behavior that is dealt with by the systematic crime of for-profit punishment by a slave-based regime. This incarceration industry, whose sole product is human misery, is wildly profitable because it is primarily funded by working stiffs, who, after their companies rip off their labor for profit, the government steps in and rips them off again in taxes. For this, we're expected to be ever so grateful and willing to offer up our sons and daughters to become trained killers in their imperialist wars and also to help suppress their fellow citizens, here at home! It's called "democracy!"

We're here to network our asses off! We must get to know each other – replace animosity and suspicion with respect. Let's not cointelpra ourselves! We can learn from each other, listen to those who've been there, done that and had their loved ones wrenched from their embrace. We need to embody each other, gain resolve and receive valuable instruction from those chained in the dungeons of America, today. We have to pool our resources and support each other's projects. Solidarity is the only way to increase the pressure on the authorities to help our incarcerated Brothers and Sisters gain some relief.

Of course, our big goal is to free the slaves and get the governmental monkeys off of our backs, altogether! We're Abolitionists which means we are against slavery.

Mostly, we want real freedom, genuine justice – total liberation. We want an end to coercive authority, an end to oppression. People are fully capable of living harmoniously without the Paul Walfowitz's of this world and their trained goons unleashing human carnage all at the time! We want our prisoners set free! We want this monstrous, criminal system abolished. We are against crime and the system that breeds it. So, the mass murderers running the show have to be stopped. We need successful revolution!

To get to there from here will require our utmost efforts. We must jack up our agitational and educational efforts, several notches. We can't tip-toe, with hat in hand in the face of this Murder, Inc. system. We must demonstrate some courage, dedication and consistency to the communities suffering the worst from this incarceration frenzy – this holocaust in the Black community.

Voices In the Wilderness

A Campaign to End the UN/US Economic Sanctions Against the People of Iraq

preserving the social order. Economics are concerned with supplying the members the members of society with the means of survival (e.g. food, clothing, shelter, medical care, sources of drinkable water, etc.) and organizing society so that these needs are met. Furthermore, no society can preserve itself without military capability. In hierarchical societies, the military apparatus (which includes police forces and prisons) are needed, not only to protect the society from external aggressors, but to protect the hierarchy from challenge by members within the society itself, also to maintain their control over the society's economy, their holds on amassed social wealth, and to serve them in expanding their power and domination over other societies. All three of these phenomenon – politics, economics and military – work together to form and maintain a society, whether primitive or modern, whether socialist or capitalist, whether a colony or an empire.

Before beginning my analyses of struggle against oppression, it seems appropriate here to briefly trace the evolution of societies from the pre-state egalitarian bond societies (or what some social analysts call "primitive communism") up to modern stratified state-level societies, and how political, economic and military activities operated in each. Three forms of political organization are prominent in the transformation of societies from egalitarian to stratified state societies; these being of big men, chiefs and ruling classes. These different developments were characterized by who controlled, and the manner of control of, the society's economy (or the distribution of basic survival necessities amongst the members of the society.)

In the primitive society the position of big man (head man) was granted based on one's generosity and equity, which in fact left the headman poor in possessions but rich in respect. His was a position given by popular consent. The headman was responsible for fair distribution of resources within the society to ensure that the needs of all members were met. Because of the respect his role created, he was the popular organizer of trade with other societies, war parties, etc. It would have been impossible for a headman to dominate his society because all members were equally armed and equally able to survive off of the land through foraging and hunting. He therefore could not militarily dominate them nor monopolize their access to the means of survival. If he did attempt to hoard social wealth, the members of the society could simply take it back and expel him; or worse.

Chiefs, like headmen, were also their societies' organizers in terms of warfare, outside trade and distribution of social resources. However, the chief (unlike the headman who won their leadership positions based on their merit and generosity) enjoyed a hereditary status, lived better than the common people, and could lose his power only through defeat in war. The chief's power was however limited because he did not have the loyalty of a permanent police – military apparatus that could permanently deny large numbers of the society from access to survival resources; such a permanent force is the glue that allows state-level societies to exist and preserves its ruling classes' elevated status and control over the society. In stratified state-level societies (whether feudalist, slave-owning or capitalist) enforced taxation and totally isolating the masses from economic control are the roots of ruling class power, from monarchs to wealthy elites; with

terrorizing the greater portion of the world's population. Now if anyone on the left other than myself has a problem with this overall situation, then the logical question becomes, in Vladimir Lenin's famous words, "What is to be done?"

Obviously the Fabian approach, which seems to have infected a vast portion of today's left leadership, of evolving socialism through words alone won't work, viz. educating away oppression through public meetings and lectures, publishing educational information, research, etc. It didn't work for the Fabians over a century ago and it doesn't work today. To digress for a moment, I've always found it ironic that the Fabian Society named themselves after Fabius Maximus Cunctator (cunctator meaning "delayer.") Fabius won acclaim as a Roman military commander, not as a pacifist educator. His accomplishments were those won on the battlefield through the use of successful, protracted guerilla tactics of evasion, harassment and attrition against the vastly superior Carthaginian Army during the second Punic War, which the Romans ultimately lost when, for lack of patience, Fabius was replaced with a commander who attempted to engage the Carthaginian Army in a decisive positional battle at Cannae. Now this is not to say that educating the masses has no place in struggle against empire – indeed it has a central and indispensable value – but it is to say that education alone (a small political approach) will not bring about a new mass-based social order.

Equally obvious is that random or spontaneous violence won't work. Anarchist youth prove this year after year when mobs of young rock-throwing Anarchist attempt to face-off in positional combat with riot police. The results are usually a bunch of sadistic pigs working over crowds of uncommitted combatants, leaving broken (sometimes dead) bodies and a flurry of arrests in their wake, along with a pretext to beet up their 'crowd control' arsenals for the next field exercise in cracking heads. This was all for the sadistic pleasure of the pigs and to the profit of police and military contractors. Similarly, this is not to denounce armed struggle – if one can call the young Anarchists' approach to clashing with riot police 'armed struggle' – but it is to say that disorganized violence and riots (a small military approach) also won't bring about a revolutionary new society, either.

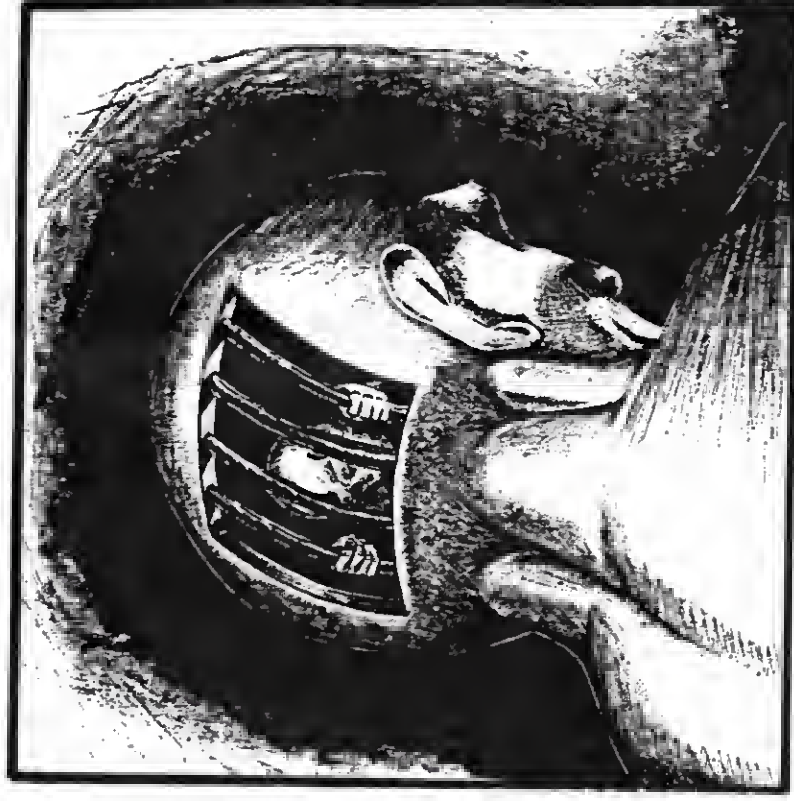
My position here is definitely not to ridicule the efforts of educators and intellectuals nor young militants ("from each according to ability") but it is to point out the futility of half-measures and isolated efforts made in non-coordinated, non-result oriented fashion.

In order to approach a discovery of what forms of struggle will actually work, we must look at the nature of social power, and at historical and modern struggles and their degrees of success – especially what general tactics were applied and how feasible those tactics might be in the here and now. We must also look at the subjective factors (the mental processes of people) that allow people to submit to oppression or compels them to rise up against it.

In discussing social phenomenon, whether in relation to societies where the masses are in control or ones where hierarchies rule (monarchies or oligarchies,) one must speak in terms of those factors which make any society possible, viz. in political, economic and military terms. Politics are concerned with creating a sense of group cohesion and support for

We are the steward's of our children's futures. Many young people today see their future as one of three things – an early grave, gang-pressed into a murderer's army or forced into a prison cell. Malcolm said it best: "By any means necessary."

Thankyou. Anthony Rayson / Chicago Anarchist Black Cross



CAPTIVE

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8/7/04

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

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I regret that I cannot be here with you in person, but Bro. Anthony has been kind enough to offer me this opportunity to say a few words about what we are doing in the Red Heart Warrior Society and the Black Brigade and our organizational philosophy. To begin with we look to the model of traditional warrior societies, both Native American and African, for our spiritual orientation and code of discipline.

As regards the iron houses, where the majority of our members reside, our goal is to transform them into "Schools of Liberation." In a class society, prisons are the universities of the underclass. Particularly now, as millions are being swept behind the razor wire, the potential exists to train tens of thousands of red-hearted warriors to serve the people and the nations.

America is a prison house of nations as well as a nation of prisons. Besides the indigenous nations whose homelands are occupied by the colonial-settler society, and whose sovereignty is usurped by the colonial-settler government, there is the Nation of Africans in America. It is this nation that the Black Brigade is dedicated to serving.

But ultimately, we and our nations are all dedicated to serving the highest interests of humanity. We have a saying which translates to "All My Relations." We believe that we are all related and descended from the First Man and the First Woman. In Lenape tradition, Man was created where the branches of the Tree of Life touched the sky, and Woman was created where the branches touched the earth.

Women bear children and bring forth and nurture new life, the role of men is to be warriors and protect and serve life. Sometimes it is also a woman's calling to be a warrior. A nation stands on its warriors. Revolution is the creation of New Life, and we need to make a revolution. We need to because there will be a short future for humanity if we do not.

Our revolution must be nurtured with love, with respect and hope. We look to pre-exploitative society for guidance in creating a post-exploitative society. We look to tradition to serve revolution. We look to the youth of today to become the warriors of the future. Our first loyalty is to the unborn generations of youth.

Our present strategy is one of partnering with local communities, and establishing mass organizations for youth, women, veterans and others as well as to protect sacred sites and the rivers. Our prison work is geared towards preparing the warriors in the joint to integrate with these activities when they get out.

Security is another issue the people face, and we advocate the formation of neighborhood patrols of warriors to discourage crimes against the people. Why should we rely on the police when they are the biggest gang of all? We must learn to govern ourselves and to stand up together and address our problems collectively.

I hope this will inspire you to support our efforts and perhaps to incorporate our organizing philosophy into what you are doing. United, we are the future!

May Your Path Be Beautiful! Wanshi!!

Tom Big Warrior

Tom's Warrior

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A Theory Towards Combating American Imperialism (Part One)

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Although I'm often asked by progressive people – people on the left of various stripes – to express my ideas on concrete solutions to present social crises, I'm often reluctant. Not because I have any problems with expressing tactical ideas, but because it's proven in my experience that they don't actually intend to apply those ideas, or search ways in practice of proving, disproving or refining them. They seem only willing to engage in dialectics, mere verbal exchanges of ideas. Words. This tends to leave me somewhat exasperated since talking, educating with words alone, has repeatedly proven to be a futile method of mobilizing the common people to change the conditions that oppress them. Material problems demands material solutions. Indeed, is it likely that advances in material science would occur if all that scientists did was engage one another in conversations about physical phenomenon? Not at all. Scientific understanding of the laws of physical matter is developed through conducting physical experiments from which their theories are proven, disproven or refined.

While there is certainly no shortage of theorists, educators and critics in the American left, tactical thinkers, people willing and able to both prescribe and apply concrete solutions to concrete problems, seem nonexistent. (Is it any wonder that educators like Noam Chomsky express inability to comprehend Karl Marx's theory of dialectical materialism, and admit that they are not tactical thinkers?) Although I believe I understand why this is, understanding the problem does not solve it; and being confined as I am within the restrictive and isolated structure of a supermax prison cell, there isn't much I can do by way of action myself. So, it seems that I'm left to the very device that I've begun with criticizing – words.

In my experiences I've learned something about many leftist social 'activists' in America, which seems a general condition. They fear discipline and pain. The former tendency seems most pronounced amongst those of the anarchist stripe. Along with government, they also reject anything – internal or external – which tends to check their ability to simply do as they please, whereas, the latter tendency seems most typical among anti-imperialist, communist leadership elements, and peaceniks. The power structure has taught them that whenever they begin promoting and organizing activities that threaten the empire's holds on their minds and bodies of the common people, they will be isolated and destroyed with violence, and the masses pacified back into inanity.

Therefore the Anarchists spend much of their energy in disorganized activities (usually individualistic and egotistical) while the more potentially organized elements of the left spend their energy reclining safely in their intellectual hothouses engaging in dialectics on social phenomenon, history and the depravity of capitalism. Meantime, empire goes about its usual business of reaping vast profits for a tiny group of men through starving and dehydrating, imposing genocidal conditions, enslaving, mass-murdering, colonizing, making the planet increasingly inhabitable for, over-depleting and destroying limited natural resources, and generally

PANEL QUESTIONS

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1. Brief description of panel members, their work and experience with the prison system.
2. What is the situation today in the prisons and in the most devastated communities?
3. What efforts are being made to support prisoners and family members? How are young people being advised on how to avoid the police dragnets?
4. How can people new to this movement get involved? What do prisoners need?
5. How can the heightened repression, both inside and out - such as mandatory minimums, three strike laws, hair-trigger parole violations, internal tickets, the Patriot Act, the targeting of activists, etc. be dealt with effectively?
6. How can we organize genuine free schooling of our targeted youth. For, the authorities are planning for millions of more prisoners in the coming years.
7. How do we overcome a lifetime of conditioning, where so many have accepted the lies of this monstrous regime. How do we overcome our fear and begin to utilize our talents most effectively in this enormously important struggle?

Prison Abolition Conference

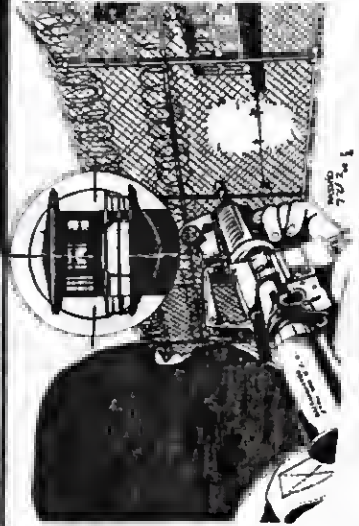
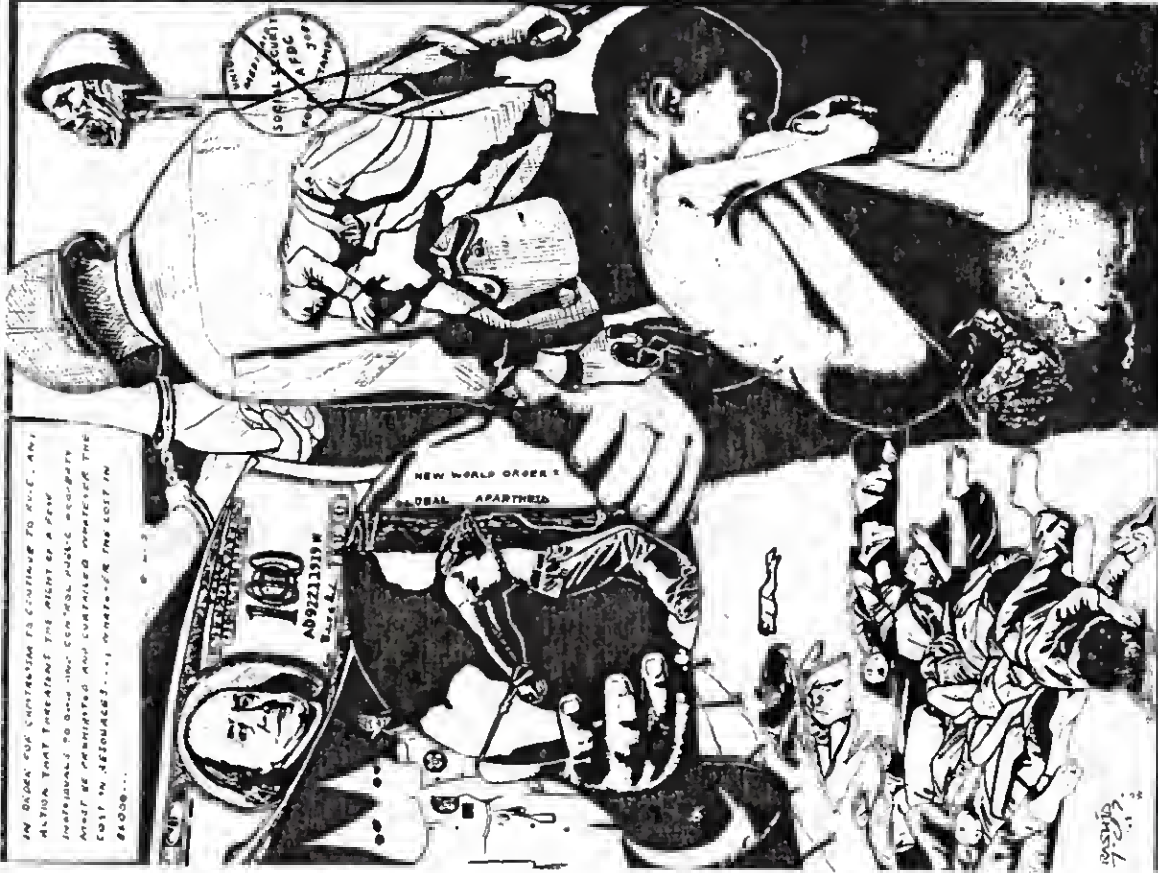
P.O. Box 721 Homewood, IL 60430

Chicagoabc.org chicagoabc@hotmail.com

We have several knowledgeable prisoner veterans, such as



1. Ramona Africa
2. Pam Africa both from MOVE
3. Robert King of the Angola 3
4. Tom Big Warrior, the historian for the Lenape Nation
5. Fred Hampton, Jr.
6. Aaron Patterson. both Chicago's own warriors!

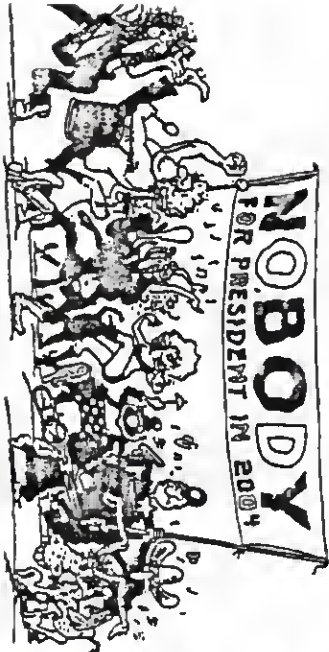


IT'S BEEN OVER 25 YEARS! YES I KNOW I BROKE MAJOR DRUG LAWS. YES I KNOW POLICE HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE WAR TO END DRUG USE. YES, LEGALLY I AM AS EVIL AS A ROBBER OR RAPIST. JUST YOUTHFUL INDECRETIONS. SOME GET CAUGHT SOME DON'T, AND YES, I REALIZE THIS IS EXACTLY WHERE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT ME.



THE USERS AND SELLERS MOSTLY WHITE • DRUG PROSECUTORS MOSTLY BLACK, HISPANIC

DOWN WITH ALL GOVERNMENTS!!!



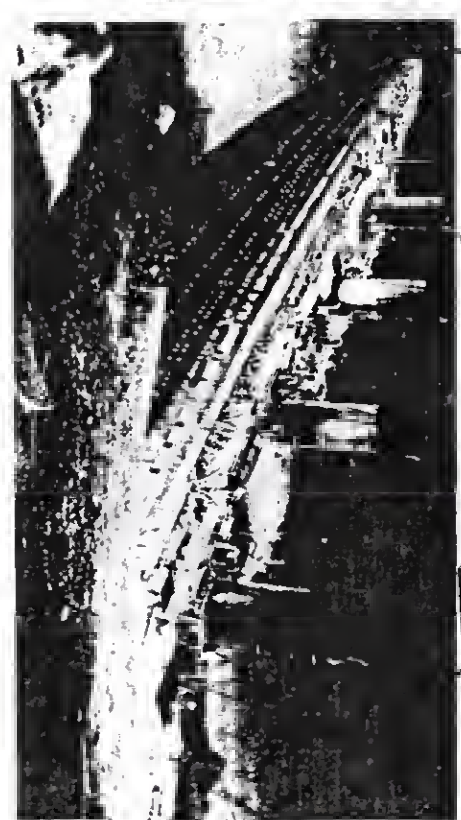
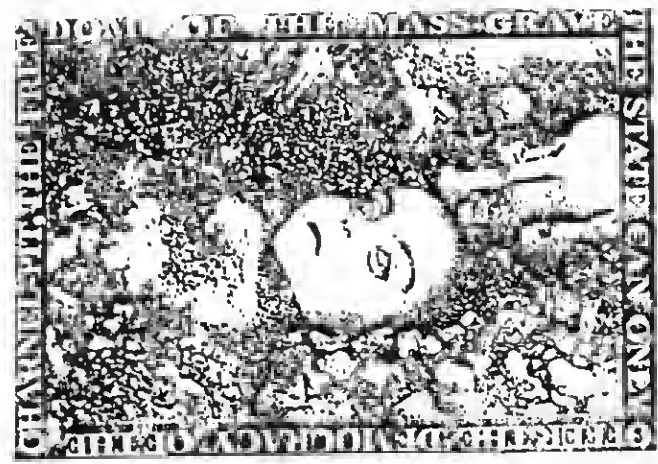
UNTILL ALL ARE FREE WE ARE ALL IMPRISONED I

Learn the TRUTH from the Gulags!

POPULATIONS AND STARVING THEMSELVES WILL BE KILLING THESE NONWHITES IN THE MEANTIME 3d WORLD NATURAL RESOURCES AND TRAINING FOR EXCHANGING AMERICAN MILITARY ARMS MARKET GOING TO KEEP 3d WORLD POPULATIONS OVER AND ABOVE AND SUBSIDY BY TARGETING DEVISE METHODS TO KEEP 3d WORLD POPULATIONS OVER AND ABOVE AND SUBSIDY BY TARGETING THEM FOR EXCESSIVE IMPRISONMENTS, DISMEMBERMENTS, DIVIDE AND TRAP OTHERS • KEEP BLACK SOCIAL NUMBERS USED BY ENSLAVERS TO OBTAIN VISIBLE PROMINENT POSITIONS TO USE MUCH AS PERMIT A FEW LOYAL TAKEN BLACKS TO HELP YALICK AND TRAP OTHERS • KEEP BLACK



ECONOMICALLY CRIPPLE AND ENSLAVE 3d WORLD NONWHITE NATIONS • MASSACRE REBELLIOUS 3d WORLD POPULATIONS - LABEL THEM TERRORIST • IMPLANT EUROCENTRIC VALUES AND VIEWS INTO 3d WORLD PSYCHES TO OVERPOWER AND DESTROY NATIVE NONCAPITALIST CULTURE AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS • MAKE NEEDED MEDICAL AID ECONOMICALLY OUT OF REACH FOR 3d WORLD (E.G. AIDS)



BENEFIT DINNER & PARTY! Saturday, August 14th 5 - 11 pm
PEOPLES' CHURCH of CHICAGO - 941 W. Lawrence Avenue